

## Lessons Learned: Developing an online research update

Jodi Dworkin (jdworkin@umn.edu)
Asst Professor & Extension Specialist
Dept of Family Social Science

Colleen Gengler
Family Relations Educator
University of Minnesota Extension Service

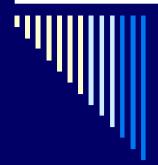
Kathleen Olson
Family Relations Educator
University of Minnesota Extension Service





### Program Goals

- 1) Explore current research in normative adolescent development and what it means for the parent-adolescent relationship and the bidirectional relationship between teens and parents. 2) Consider the implications for day to day work.
- Five content areas:
  - The family as a system; Normative adolescent development; Parenting styles; The bi-directional parent-child relationship; Agency in adolescence
- □ Target audience:
  - School personnel, counselors, social workers, faithbased staff, parent educators, public health staff, staff in community organizations and agencies



## Lessons Learned: Needs assessment

- Survey of online professional development needs and goals (n=157; 14 states)
- Content is most important, convenience and time commitment are second in importance
- Audience needs to be motivated to stay engaged
- Technological literacy
- Consider collaboration and blended courses

Senyurekli, A. R., Dworkin, J., & Dickinson, J. (2006). On-line professional development for U.S. Extension Educators. *Journal of Extension* [On-line], 44(3). Available at: http://www.joe.org/joe/2006june/rb1.shtml



## Lessons Learned: Needs assessment

- 95% are "interested" or "very interested" in participating online vs. face-to-face
- Cost for 1 hr of professional dev
  - 58.8% would pay \$20-\$39, 23.5% would pay \$40 or more
- 70% would want the info available for 2-3 months
- 80% log in from work (63% with a high speed connection)

Family Relations Research Update - What Is New with Teens and their Families









You are currently on: Home Page

#### What's New With Teens and Their Families?

Research Update for Professionals



#### Course Introduction

Find helpful information both about this course and about using WebCT Vista.



#### Course Topics

Course segments listed by topic are located here.



#### Presentations

All course presentations shown in the lessons are located here for easy reference.



#### Research Summaries

See a summary of research articles used in developing this course.



Course Evaluation



Resources





#### Family Relations Research Update - What Is New with Teens and their Families





You are currently on:  $\underline{\text{Home Page}} > \mathbf{Course\ Topics}$ 

#### **Course Topics**



Introduction



<u>Lesson 1 - Adolescent and Family</u> Development



Lesson 2 - The Family as a System



<u>Lesson 3 - Bi-directionality in the</u> Family System



Additional Resources and Evaluation



### **Evaluation:**

Online (n=76) vs. face-to-face (n=142)

- Participants in both formats reported a statistically significant increase in knowledge in all five content areas
- Online participants started out with a mean understanding <u>sig lower</u> in family as a system, norm adol dev, agency (approaches sig)
- □ Face-to-face participants ended with a mean understanding <u>sig higher</u> in family as a system, norm adol dev, *parenting styles*, agency (approaches sig)



# Evaluation: Online vs. face-to-face

- No difference in mean by format:
  - "Caused me to think in new ways"
  - "Learned something new from the material"
  - "I will use the research summaries"
- Significant difference in mean by format:
  - "The resource lists will be useful" (face-to-face higher)
  - "In my work with families, the information presented was" - not useful to very useful (online higher)



# Lessons Learned: Implementation

- WebCT
  - 94.7% agree or strongly agree "I would regard the technology as a positive aspect of this course."
  - 82.9% agree or strongly agree "The course technology helped me learn."
- Threaded discussion
- Registration
- Marketing